

May - August 2025  
Issue 23



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out* & *about*

**Vale of York District**



York, photo by Jeffrey Zhang



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Online



Theatre



Film



Meetings



Quiz



*Walk in the Park (Goole) -  
Wednesday 20 August, we hope  
you can join us!*

**Welcome to the Vale  
of York District of the  
Oddfellows. Members  
of the District have  
organised an exciting  
and varied programme  
of events for everyone.**

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep, so that you know what is happening in your area. It will be published three or four times a year. There may be some extra events and dates confirmed after publication, where possible, circulars/emails will be sent.

**Everyone is welcome and we like  
to think that we can guarantee  
you a good time. All members  
are invited to attend any of the  
events listed in this diary.**

## Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

**Secretary:** Peter Needham

**Telephone:** 01652 651594 or  
01652 655828

**Email:**

[peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk)

### Social Organisers

**York**

Sarah Walmsley - York contact

**Telephone:** 07762 352847

**Email:**

[sarah.walmsley@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:sarah.walmsley@oddfellows.co.uk)

### Goole

Daphne Stephenson

**Telephone:** 01405 765356

**Address:** 14 Hawthorn Terrace,  
Goole DN14 5JU

### Care Co-ordinator

Christine Smith

**Telephone:** 01405 768471

**Address:** 27 Hilda Street Goole  
DN14 6DS

### Care Contact

June Whitehead

**Mobile:** 07708 099602

Wendy Chittock

**Mobile:** 07759 680949

**f** [YorkOddfellows](#)

# Regular Events

## Goole Film Club



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



**First  
Thursday**



Watch a film with friends. Relax with good company. Ice-cream served during the film with tea and cakes afterwards. No need to book just turn up. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH. Contact Barbara or Peter on 01652 651594. **1 May 5 June 3 July**

## Goole Out to Lunch



1pm



As per menu, with  
weekday specials



**Second  
Thursday**  
Except August



You are welcome to join us for lunch. Book six days in advance. Aire & Calder Brewers Fayre, Rawcliffe Road, Goole DN14 8JS. Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.

**8 May**

**12 June**

**10 July**

**Tues 12 August**

## York Get Together



12 noon



As per menu



**Various  
Tuesday**



Enjoy a fantastic home-made lunch or coffee. The number 1 and 13 bus stop right outside the Folk Hall. Folk Hall Café, New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace, York YO32 4AQ. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

**6 May**

**10 June**

**1 July**

**19 August**

## York Lunch Club



12 noon



£6, but as per  
menu for August



**Various  
Fridays**



The price includes main, dessert and tea or coffee catered for by Louise. No need to book. Just turn up. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG (except 8 August, which is The Bar Convent Living Heritage Centre, 17 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AQ) Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

**9 May**

**6 June**

**18 July**

**8 August\***

## York Film Club



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



**Various  
Saturdays**



Come along to our monthly film club and watch a movie with friends. Ice-cream during the film with tea and cakes afterwards. No need to book. All are welcome. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847. **24 May 21 June 19 July 16 August**

# May 2025

TUES

06

## York Get Together



12 noon



As per menu



Enjoy a fantastic home-made lunch or coffee. The number 1 and 13 bus stop right outside the Folk Hall. Folk Hall Café, New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace, York YO32 4AQ. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



FRI

09

## York Lunch Club



12 noon



£6



Join in with the Friday Lunch at St Ed's. The price includes main, dessert and tea or coffee catered for by Louise. No need to book. Just turn up. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



TUES

13

## York Out to Lunch at Slug and Lettuce Riverside



12 noon



As per menu



Enjoy food with friends by the Riverside. You can opt for brunch, starter, main and dessert,



or take advantage of the 'Lunch Offer' (sandwich or burger with skin-on fries or side salad and soft drink for £8). Tuesday 13 May is World Cocktail Day. Slug and Lettuce have got a fabulous 2-4-1 Cocktail Offer. When you order two of any of the same cocktails or mocktails from their menu, you only pay for one. Will you share or keep them both yourself? Book by Tuesday 6 May. Slug & Lettuce York Riverside, 1 Low Ousegate, York YO1 9QU. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

WED

14

## Domino Competition in Goole



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



You are welcome to join us to play dominoes. Raffle - prizes gratefully accepted. Tea or coffee and biscuits. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH. Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.

# May 2025

SUN

18

## Oddfellows Brass Band Concert in Scarborough



3pm



Free



Oddfellows Brass, our official band, perform a wide range of music from traditional tunes and modern works (of which some are arranged and composed by their players), to movie scores and popular songs. They always put on a first-class performance at our annual conference, which is taking place in Scarborough this year. This is a free, public concert with seats allocated on a first come, first served basis. The Band Stand, Spa Centre, Spa Bay, Scarborough YO11 2HD. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



SAT

24

## York Film Club



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



Come along to our monthly film club and watch a movie with friends. The film choice for May is 'A Real Pain'. which is a 2024 comedy-drama film written and directed by Jesse Eisenberg. The film stars Eisenberg and Kieran Culkin as mismatched cousins who reunite for a Jewish heritage tour through Poland in honor of their late grandmother, but their old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. Culkin won the Oscar and Golden Globe awards for Best Supporting Actor, while Eisenberg won the BAFTA for Best Original Screenplay. It was named one of the top 10 films of 2024. As usual, there will be ice-cream during the film with tea or coffee afterwards. No need to book. Newcomers welcome. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



# May 2025

MON  
26

## York Cuppa and Chat at Rowntree Park

L 10am

£ As per menu



The explore Reading Café is surrounded by nature, with lovely views of Rowntree Park. Come along to the café and enjoy a couple of hours with people that are happy to chat with a short stroll around Rowntree Park (optional). No need to book; just turn up. Rowntree Park Reading Café, Rowntree Park Lodge, Richardson Street, York YO23 1JU. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

THURS  
29

## Pie, Peas and Bingo (Goole)

L 1pm

£ Members £5  
Guests £7



Come and enjoy pie and peas with friends. Bingo afterwards with cash prizes. Please book with Barbara to make sure there is a pie for you! £5 for members and £7 for guests Book by Wednesday 28 May. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH. Contact Barbara on 01652 651594.

# June

FRI  
06

## York Lunch Club

L 12 noon

£ £6



This month's Friday Lunch is taking place on National Fish and Chips Day. The price includes fish and chips main, dessert and tea or coffee catered for by Louise. Due to this being a special occasion, Oddfellows members must sign up with Sarah well in advance. You will then pay at St Ed's on the day, as usual. Please do not just turn up. Book by Friday 30 May. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

SAT  
07

## Vale of York Business Meeting

L 10.30am

£ Free



This is a business meeting for members only. Come and find out how the District Branch is run and meet the people who do it. Catering will be provided by Christine Smith after the meeting. Book by Monday 2 June. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH. Contact Peter on 01652 651594 or Daphne on 01405 765356.

# June

TUES  
10

## York Get Together



12 noon



As per  
menu



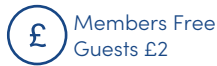
Enjoy a fantastic home-made lunch or coffee. The number 1 and 13 bus stop right outside the Folk Hall. Folk Hall Café, New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace, York YO32 4AQ. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

SAT  
21

## York Film Club



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



The Seven Year Itch' celebrates its 70th Anniversary this month. Come along to film club and watch this classic romantic comedy with friends. Tom Ewell won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy for his performance as Richard Sherman, who decides to live an ideal bachelor's life while his wife and son are on a vacation trip.

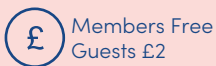
He starts spending time with a blonde (Marilyn Monroe) living in his building and soon falls in love with her. It contains one of the most iconic pop culture images of the 20th century, in the form of Monroe standing on a subway grate as her white dress is blown upwards by a passing train. As usual, there will be ice-cream during the film with tea or coffee afterwards. No need to book. Newcomers welcome. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

WED  
18

## Emergency First Aid in Goole



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



Vicky Smith will show us how to give emergency first aid and use a defibrillator. All welcome. Raffle - prizes gratefully accepted. Tea or coffee and biscuits. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH. Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.



# June

FRI  
27

## Beetle Drive in York



3pm



Members Free, Guests £2



Come along and have fun as we play beetle drive with a couple of games of musical bingo and a raffle afterwards. Prizes gratefully accepted. All welcome; just remember to let Sarah know that you're coming, as it's National Cream Tea Day, so one will be served half-way through. Book by Sunday 22 June. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

# BEETLE DRIVE



MON  
30

## York Cuppa and Chat at West Bank Park



10am



As per menu



Meet in front of the Bowls Pavillion at 10am and enjoy a couple of hours with people that are happy to chat with the option to play bocce and other games.

Please let Sarah know if you plan to turn up, in case we need to move the event indoors, to a local café, due to bad weather. For those that want to, we will take a leisurely stroll around this beautiful urban 20-acre park that boasts mature woodland, rose terraces and pergola walk. Book by Sunday 29 June. West Bank Park, Acomb Road, Holgate YO24 4NS. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.





# July

SAT  
05

## History of the Oddfellows (York)



2pm



Free



Join us for an interesting talk by Peter Needham about the structure and traditions of the Oddfellows,

demonstration of a welcoming ceremony and three links badges will be issued to those that don't have them. There will be a fun Q and A, when Sarah will interview our 'panel of experts' with all your burning questions, followed by a complimentary buffet and social. Whether you recently joined or have been a member for decades, there will be something for everyone at this event. Please show your support and come along; just remember to let Sarah know that you're coming, as she needs numbers for catering. Book by Saturday 28 June. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

FRI  
11

## Inter-District Quiz Heats in York



12 noon



Free



Every year, Emma and Steve from Bradford visit each of the Districts in Yorkshire and host a Quiz Heat. For Vale of York District, the heats normally take place in Goole. This year, they will take place in York. Wherever you live in the Vale of York, whether it be Goole, Scarborough, York or somewhere else, please come along and support your District. Teams of four will compete to see if they can make it through to the final in Bradford.

If you don't consider yourself to be a quizzier, come along and spectate. The more the merrier! There will be a buffet at the start and a raffle afterwards. Prizes gratefully accepted. Remember to let Sarah know that you're coming, as she needs numbers for catering. Book by Friday 4 July. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

# July

WED  
16

## Beetle Drive in Goole



2pm

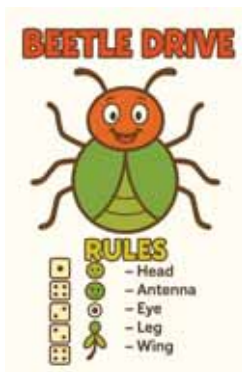


Members Free  
Guests £2



You are welcome to join us for a beetle drive. Raffle - prizes gratefully accepted. Tea or coffee and biscuits. The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH.

Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.



FRI  
18

## York Lunch Club



12 noon



£6



Join in with the Friday Lunch at St Ed's. The price includes main, dessert and tea or coffee catered for by Louise. No need to book. Just turn up. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



SAT  
19

## York Film Club



2pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



Come along to our monthly film club and watch a new movie with friends. 'Hard Truths' is a comedy-drama film that was released theatrically in the UK at the



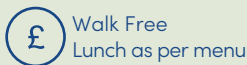
end of January 2025. Set in London, its plot follows the plight of a depressed and nay-saying woman (Marianne Jean-Baptiste) and the relationship with her jovial sister Chantelle. As usual, there will be ice-cream during the film with tea or coffee afterwards. No need to book. Newcomers welcome. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

## Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

THURS  
24

## York Oddie's Hikers – Stamford Bridge



There are two parts to this event; a three mile walk followed by lunch at the pub at 12.30pm. If you would like to do the walk without lunch after or miss out the walk, but still join us in the pub for lunch; just let Sarah know at the time of booking. The circular route takes us along the River Derwent to Low Catton and then returns via a combination of countryside and urban paths, with great views.

You will also have a chance to explore the history of the village including the site of the Battle of Stamford Bridge. For those using public transport, the 10 bus leaves Rail Station (Stop RC) at 10am and arrives at The Three Cups at 10.48am. Book by Thursday 17 July. The Three Cups, York Road, Stamford Bridge, York YO41 1AX. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

MON  
28

## York Cuppa and Chat at Museum Gardens



Meet at the café situated just inside the Museum Street entrance to the gardens and enjoy a couple of hours with people that are happy to chat. Please let Sarah know if you plan to turn up, in case we need to move the event indoors, to a different café, due to bad weather. For those that want to, we will take a leisurely stroll around the 10 acres of beautiful botanic gardens. Book by Saturday 26 July. Ciao York, Located in Museum Gardens, Museum Street, York YO1 7FR. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

# August

## SAT 02 Inter-District Quiz Final in Bradford



If we get through to the final, come and support our Branch team. Book by Saturday 26 July. Carlton House, 46 Little Horton Lane, Bradford BD5 0BA. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



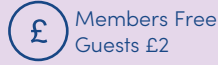
## FRI 08 York Lunch Club at Bar Convent



In August, Louise takes a well-earned break from catering for York Lunch Club, so we will head down the road to the Bar Convent. This event may be fully booked before the deadline, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Friday 11 July. The Bar Convent Living Heritage Centre, 17 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AQ. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



## SAT 16 York Film Club



Come along to our monthly film club and watch a blockbuster comedy with friends. 'The Full Monty' is set in Sheffield during the 1990s and tells the story of six unemployed men, four of them former steel workers, who decide to form a male striptease act to make some money and for the main character, Gaz (Robert Carlyle), to be able to see his son. The British Film Institute ranked it the 25th best British film of the 20th century. As usual, there will be ice-cream during the film with tea or coffee afterwards. No need to book. Newcomers welcome. Community Hall, St Edward the Confessor Church, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

# August

**TUES**  
**19** **York Get Together**



12 noon



As per menu



Enjoy a fantastic home-made lunch or coffee. The number 1 and 13 bus stop right outside the Folk Hall. Folk Hall Café, New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace, York YO32 4AQ. Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.

**SUN**  
**24** **Sunday Lunch (near Goole)**



1pm



Around £13



Round off the week and enjoy a summer lunch with friends. Choice of two carved meats from beef, turkey, gammon or pork. Help yourself to Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, many other vegetables and sauces. Not full, then treat yourself to a sweet as a reasonable price. Book and pay by Sunday 17 August. Blacksmith's Arms, 13 High Street, Hook, Goole DN14 5NY. Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.



**WED**  
**20** **Walk in the Park (Goole)**



2pm



Free



You are welcome to join us, enjoy the summer weather, have a stroll and a chat. Please bring a drink or use café if open. Refreshments provided. Please contact Daphne, if it is very wet, because we will meet in the Meeting Room. West Park, Airmyn Road, Goole DN14 6XA. Contact Daphne on 01405 765356.





# August

MON

25

## York Cuppa and Chat at Café at No. 12



10am



As per menu



Come along to Café at No. 12 and enjoy a couple of hours with people that are happy to chat followed by a short stroll around the Railway Ponds and Little Hob Moor (optional).

No need to book; just turn up.  
Café at No. 12, 12 Tadcaster Road,  
Dringhouses, York YO24 1LH.  
Contact Sarah on 07762 352847.



## Say *yes* to friendship in September

Make someone's day  
and invite them along to  
share the friendship fun.

**All welcome**

Make friends with the Oddfellows



[www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)

To see what's on and find out  
more about Friendship Month  
visit **[www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)**

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



# Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

## What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

**Tuesday 13 May, 10am – Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat**

**Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603**

**Tuesday 10 June, 7pm – Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)**

**Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538. Password: 616704.**

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on [events@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:events@oddfellows.co.uk), with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events) or ask me to send you a list by email.

**Secretary: Peter Needham**

# Christmas and New Year with Oddfellows in York

**Christmas in York with Oddfellows was a happy time and judging by the number of people attending the various events, it is much needed. There are obviously a lot of people who would otherwise be on their own. Well done to Sarah and the Social Committee, for organizing so many events.**

Shortly after the Nostell Priory outing, described elsewhere in this magazine, a Festive Afternoon Tea was arranged. This was exactly as advertised, a festive tea in the afternoon, with quizzes on the table, and a grand raffle.

The Christmas Tree Festival held in York Minster was another 'winner'. Although I could not attend, I know from past years how impressive the display is. Christmas trees decorated by Schools and Charities and all different. A fantastic setting for such a display.



The York Lunch Club joined in the St Edward's Christmas Lunch, and what a gathering! Around 90 people enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Followed by a quiz and a huge raffle which raised around £300 for St Leonard's Hospice. Thank you to all who attended for making this an enjoyable afternoon.

Ice Free Curling also took place at Roxy and again enjoyed by all present. This was after meeting for a chat and a coffee at Hungate Reading Café. The Café



itself is a popular venue for our Cuppa and Chat events which take place at different venues monthly throughout the year.

Between Christmas and New Year, a Film Club was held. Each month, the number of people attending increases, making it a very sociable afternoon.

New Year's Eve Celebration again lived up to its name, 'Celebration'. A lunchtime event is very welcome for those people who do not go out on New Year's Eve evening. A three-course menu plus tea, coffee and mints as well as soft and alcoholic drinks, all for £12. How does Sarah do it? Thank you.

**Isobel Goforth**

# Oddies Hikers (Wilberfoss)

**Why pay to do a snowdrop walk when you can go in the country and see them!**

A group of us went to the village of Wilberfoss for a walk. We did just over three miles and had lunch at the aptly named village pub 'Oddfellows Arms'. Delicious! Will be going there again. Did you know there are over 500 named snowdrops? No, I don't know them, either.

**Wendy Chittock**



## Nostell Priory

**Early in December, eleven people from the Vale of York were signed up to go to Kipling Hall and Gardens to enjoy festive displays. Unfortunately, Kipling Hall announced they were to close until the New Year.**

Sarah made enquiries and arranged for us to go to Nostell Priory instead, and we were not disappointed.

There were so many trees, all decorated differently: papier- mâché baubles; toy soldiers; ballet shoes; ribbons and cardboard figures. These all reminded me of the scraps I had as a little girl.

There was a roaring fire in one room. Beautiful tapestries in another and a toy train running round in the kiddies' room. Lots of presents under the tree.



Photo by Wehna

We had a walk round the gardens too, they are vast, so we didn't get round them completely. I can't wait to go back in the summer.

**Wendy Chittock**

# In the New Year - 2025

**Following all the festivities at Christmas/New Year it was soon back into the 'usual' and the 'new' events in January.**

The regular, familiar but enjoyable events were held: Film Club; Get Together and Cuppa and Chat. The Get Together takes place at the Folk Hall in New Earswick. It is a social afternoon, with delicious food available. The activities can include crafts, playing cards or doing a jigsaw, not forgetting, just chatting. We have a 'dedicated' place, all to ourselves, which is lovely.

A visit to York Cold War Bunker was arranged for a Sunday morning. This had been interesting for those people attending and it very aptly led to Sunday Lunch, in the form of a carvery at a nearby pub. In each Events Diary a, 'Dominoes and Dinner' is arranged, by popular request. A night when the pizzas are half-price is chosen, so we enjoy food, a drink and a few games of dominoes plus excellent company.

Some members from York attended the Viking Branch in Goole where we

learn more about the Oddfellows. One such meeting is to be held in York in July and I do hope you will think about attending. Yes, we enjoy the social side of Oddfellowship but there is also the 'Ceremonial' traditions and the history of the Society which has been established for more than 200 years.

A guided tour of Holgate Windmill took place. This is Yorkshire's oldest working windmill and situated quite close to the centre of York. An interesting event and, again, allowing people to continue to a lunch venue. All very important if you would otherwise be going back to an empty home. Last, but not least, 'Pie, Peas and Pig Racing' has happened. The pigs have been lent by the Leeds Branch, following the highly successful Games Afternoon held there. Members in York were not disappointed; they enjoyed the afternoon which also celebrated British Pie Week.

I do hope you can find events to suit you and also do bring your friends.

**Isobel Goforth**

## Games Afternoon

**On 24 January, the Leodis Branch in the Leeds District, hosted a games afternoon to which the Vale of York members were invited.**

A group of us went and we had a delicious sausage and mash dinner.

It was nice to see a few people who come to York for the Film Club and other events. We played Beetle and Play Your Cards Right. It was all great fun.

**Wendy Chittock**



## Burns afternoon

**In January we had a Burn's afternoon with Haggis, Neaps and Tatties. There were over 30 members taking part and tartan was very evident!**

We listened to Scottish music, had a Robbie Burns quiz and watched a slide show of his life. Tots of whisky were raised in a toast to Robbie and everyone said it had been a very enjoyable afternoon. Maybe a repeat performance next year?



## Scenic Britain

**In March, Stephen Gay came to show us some of his journey around Britain by train. The photos were impressive and Stephen gives an interesting commentary on his journeys taken in the past with his beloved dog Wrawby (named after a railway junction).**



## Indoor curling

**Indoor curling took place with discs on wheels not ice! Jill was our overall winner and enjoyed a chocolate prize. The idea is to get as many points as you can by getting your discs on the scoring target.**

But of course then your opponent can crash your discs out making for a lot of fun and banter! A cup of tea and a cake were the consolation prizes for the rest of us.



# Changes to Dental and Optical Care Benefit claims



**If you're a member on the Extra Benefits package (£35 a year), it means you can claim up to £30 every other membership year towards the cost of optical care and up to £30 every membership year towards dental costs.\***

Claims against dental and optical payment plans were previously excluded, but from 1 June 2024 this has changed.

You can now claim £30 every membership year towards check-ups, treatments and dental payment plan costs and £30 every other membership year towards an eye test, new glasses, contact lenses and optical payment plan costs.

Life, Associate and Widow members can also now claim towards optical or dental payment plans as a result of this recent benefit update.

## Further information

- Want to find out more about the Dental and Optical Care Benefit and how to claim? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/dental-and-optical-care-benefit](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/dental-and-optical-care-benefit).
- Unsure of which membership package you're on, or want to learn more about switching membership packages? Speak with your Branch Secretary or contact our Membership team on 0800 028 1810 / [membership@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:membership@oddfellows.co.uk).

\*Terms and conditions apply to all financial benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Extra Benefits members can read the full list of member terms and conditions on our website at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs).

Life, Associate and Widow members should contact their Branch Secretary for details about entitlements.

## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call **0800 028 1810**.

## Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

**In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.**

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

### Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



### Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

### Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

### Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

### Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

### Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

### Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)

# Trio receive university funding

**Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.**

## Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

## Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

## Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

## Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”



# Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



## With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

### April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

### Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

### August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

### Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub)  
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products\* visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows)

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

\*Terms and conditions apply

# Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



**None of us know what is around the corner...**

## Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Christine on **07747 550190**, June on **07708 099602** and Wendy Chittock Telephone: **01904 626928** or Mobile: **07759 680949** or our email details.

## Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

\*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

## Care and Welfare Helpline

**Call 0800 0149 822**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

**Email:** [care@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:care@oddfellows.co.uk)

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

# Meetings

**We regularly hold meetings and all members are welcome to attend. We share and discuss the business of the Branch. Subjects include social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion.**

Listed below are the addresses of the regular meeting places in our area. We are unlikely to cancel an event or change a venue without advance warning. However, in bad weather conditions, please telephone the Secretary or named Social Organiser to check that the times and locations are as listed. We look forward to seeing you.

## Vale of York District Branch

Quarterly meetings, held in various locations, are to discuss the business of the District. The dates and venues are agreed at the Annual Summoned Meeting and listed in the Events Diary. All members are welcome to attend.

## The Good Samaritan Branch Goole

The Meeting Room, 176 Boothferry Road, Goole DN14 6AH and other venues as listed in the Events Diary.

## Mechanics Branch York

The St Edward the Confessor Church, Community Hall, Dringhouses, York YO24 1QG and other venues as listed in the Events Diary.

# Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra\* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

### Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/login](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/login)



**\*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.**

Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

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# At a glance - see page 3 for regular event info

## May 2025

<b>Thurs 1</b>	Goole Film Club	2pm
<b>Tues 6</b>	York Get Together	1pm
<b>Thurs 8</b>	Goole Out to Lunch - <b>Book by Sat 3 May</b>	1pm
<b>Fri 9</b>	York Lunch Club	12 noon
<b>Tues 13</b>	York Out to Lunch at Slug and Lettuce Riverside <b>Book by Tues 6 May</b>	12 noon
<b>Wed 14</b>	Domino Competition in Goole	2pm
<b>Sun 18</b>	Oddfellows Brass Band Concert in Scarborough	3pm
<b>Sat 24</b>	York Film Club	2pm
<b>Mon 26</b>	York Cuppa and Chat at Rowntree Park	10am
<b>Thurs 29</b>	Pie, Peas and Bingo (Goole) - <b>Book by Wed 28 May</b>	1pm

## June

<b>Thurs 5</b>	Goole Film Club	2pm
<b>Fri 6</b>	York Lunch Club - <b>Book by Fri 30 May</b>	12 noon
<b>Sat 7</b>	Vale of York Business Meeting - <b>Book by Mon 2 June</b>	10.30am
<b>Tues 10</b>	York Get Together	1pm
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Goole Out to Lunch - <b>Book by Sat 7 June</b>	1pm
<b>Wed 18</b>	Emergency First Aid in Goole	2pm
<b>Sat 21</b>	York Film Club	2pm
<b>Fri 27</b>	Beetle Drive in York - <b>Book by Sun 22 June</b>	3pm
<b>Mon 30</b>	York Cuppa and Chat at West Bank Park <b>Book by Sun 29 June</b>	10am

## July

<b>Thurs 3</b>	Goole Film Club	2pm
<b>Sat 5</b>	History of the Oddfellows (York) - <b>Book by Sat 28 June</b>	2pm
<b>Thurs 10</b>	Goole Out to Lunch - <b>Book by Sat 5 July</b>	1pm
<b>Fri 11</b>	Inter-District Quiz Heats in York - <b>Book by Fri 4 July</b>	12 noon
<b>Wed 16</b>	Beetle Drive in Goole	2pm
<b>Fri 18</b>	York Lunch Club	12 noon

# At a glance - see page 3 for regular event info

## July

<b>Sat 19</b>	York Film Club	2pm
<b>Mon 28</b>	York Cuppa and Chat at Museum Gardens <b>Book by Sat 26 July</b>	10am

## August

<b>Sat 2</b>	Inter-District Quiz Final (Bradford) - <b>Book by Sat 26 July</b>	7pm
<b>Fri 8</b>	York Lunch Club at Bar Convent - <b>Book by Fri 11 July</b>	12 noon
<b>Tues 12</b>	Goole Out to Lunch - <b>Book by Sat 7 August</b>	1pm
<b>Sat 16</b>	York Film Club	2pm
<b>Tues 19</b>	York Get Together	1pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Walk in the Park (Goole)	2pm
<b>Sun 24</b>	Sunday Lunch (near Goole) - <b>Book by Sun 17 August</b>	1pm
<b>Mon 25</b>	York Cuppa and Chat at Café at No. 12	10am

## Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

### You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, see contact details on page 2



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since 1810  
making friends, helping people

[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

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